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11. That Peermade should be made the headquarters of the Devicolam Division.

Mr R. Krishna Panicker (Member, Peermade taluk) stated that some *pakuthies* belonging to the Kottayam Division had been transferred to the Devicolam Division in the recent reorganization. Devicolam, the head quarters of the Division, was situated far away from some of the *pakuthies* such as Manimala and Kanjirapally of the Peermade taluk. The inhabitants of these localities, who had hitherto had to go only a distance of about 20 miles to the Division Cutcherry at Kottayam for transacting business, now had to travel a distance of over a 100 miles to reach Devicolam, to their great inconvenience and discomfort. They had to take a circuitous route, in that they had to come to Kottayam at first and then go to Quilon to take train *en route* to Devicolam. The Member pointed out also that the recent Census showed that the Peermade taluk contained 45,104 people, while Devicolam had only 23,458, and that most of the people in the latter were not permanent residents, unlike those in the former. He suggested that it would be a great help to the people if the Division Cutcherry were transferred to Peermade, and said that the objection that might be raised by the European Planters against this proceedure might easily be got over by the transfer of the Special First Class Magistrate's Court at Peermade to Devicolam. If this could not be done, the Member prayed that the Peermade Magistrate might be empowered to take up cases which would ordinarily go to the Devicolam District Magistrate.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

12. The lands acquired for the Wadai canal at Alleppey and not now needed, should be restored to the respective owners.

Mr. Govindan Kesavan (Member, Nominated) said that, since submitting his memorandum of subjects, he has learnt that the Government, in their Order No. L. R. 798, dated 26th January 1912, have ruled that the lands should be restored to their respective owners. He had only to thank the Government sincerely for the same.

Dewan.—The order which the Member refers to relates to the lands in the Shertallai taluk, but the lands in the Ambalapuzha taluk have been leased on *kuthagapattom* in 1085. No orders have been passed in respect of them, nor will they be passed till the expiry of the term of the leases.

13. Difficulties experienced in getting *puduvals* registered in the names of Pulayas.

Mr. Aiyan Kali (Member, Nominated) first of all thanked the Government for nominating him as a Member of the Assembly to represent the Pulaya community, and also thanked the Members of the last Session for having unanimously acceded to the request made by their representative that a man from the Pulaya community itself should be allowed this time. He said that, in accordance with the reply given to the representations made on their behalf last time, as regards the registration of *puduvals* to them,

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many petitions were put in for the registration of certain *puduvals* in the Neyyattinkara, Vilavancode, Trivandrum and Nedumangad taluks, but to no purpose. Many obstacles were thrown in their way by the inhabitants of the locality, assisted by some of the subordinate revenue officials. The effect of this was that the *puduvals*, which were hitherto unknown to the people but sought and found out by the Pulayas, were obtained by the rich higher classes and the Pulayas were persecuted and driven out from their habitations, and even the little they had before, was lost to them now. They had no other alternative but to appeal to the mercy of the paternal Government. The Member prayed that some *puduvals* at least be registered to the members of his community and that, out of the registered waste lands lying useless, some might be given to them as an experimental measure for their comfort and convenience. The Member pointed out also the hardship they suffered at the hands of the rich land-owners in that they were evicted out of the holdings where they had been allowed to live and which by their own exertions they had made habitable and productive. Besides this, he said that some of the officials of the Forest Department, with the connivance of some of the rich men of the locality, forced them to go out of their habitations in the forests, bringing in the plea of Forest Reserves, and at the same time permitting others to take possession of those places. This sort of high-handedness was carried on chiefly at Valiakavunkal in the Ranni proverthy, Chenganoor taluk, Alapra muri in the Changanacherry taluk, and at Perumbath muri in the Thiruvellah taluk. He prayed that grievances such as these should be remedied.

Dewan's reply.—His Highness' Government are doing what they can to help the Pulayas. Out of 779 petitions for the registry of *puduvals* preferred on behalf of the Pulayas, so many as 769 related to *poramboke* lands which could not be assigned. There are more than 500 acres of waste lands in the Vilappil *pakuthi* available for registry. If the Pulayas would like to go over there, the Peishkar may be approached.

(2) Forest Revenue.

14. The whole quantity of teak timber should not be given to contractors but at least half of it may be given to the public also.

Mr. M. M. Varghese (Member, Kottayam Trading Classes) represented that the people of Travancore did not obtain good timber for building purposes. The contractors, Messrs Wallibhoy Khaderbhoy and Co., sold almost all the good and serviceable timber elsewhere, and the timber sold by public auction in the Sircar depots was quite unfit for building purposes, and even this refuse could be got only at exorbitant rates. On rare occasions, the contractors sold timber locally, but at rates which they chose to fix. The result was

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